



Drinking Water Operator Expense Reimbursement Grant

Environmental Assistance Office fact sheet

3/2004

Background

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has received a \$3.1 million Drinking Water Operator Expense Reimbursement Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA, as a result of the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act, awarded grants to each state. The intent of the grant is to provide money for the training and certification of individuals operating community and non-transient, non-community drinking water systems serving 3,300 people or less.

More than 1,500 public water systems in Missouri qualify for a portion of these grant funds. This represents more than 75 percent of all public water systems in the state. The department will be using a voucher system to allocate grant funds to eligible drinking water systems. A list of the eligible drinking water systems is provided at the following Web site:

www.dnr.mo.gov/oac/optrain.htm.

Vouchers

Each eligible system will receive vouchers that their employees can use towards the costs of obtaining and retaining drinking water operator certification. Vouchers can be used as payment for drinking water treatment and distribution training, examinations, operator certification and renewal certification.

To use vouchers as payment for drinking water training, operators will submit the voucher to the trainer as payment. The trainer will submit the voucher along with the course roster to the department, and the department will pay the trainer for the cost of training.

To use vouchers as payment of fees for examinations, operator certification and renewal certification, operators will submit the voucher instead of a check or other payment along with the appropriate application to the department.

By using vouchers, the department is providing each water system the opportunity to use grant funds in the way that will best fit its needs. The vouchers give the eligible water systems flexibility in managing their operator certification requirements and enable the maximum involvement of trainers in the program.

For more information call 1-800-361-4827, e-mail opcertgrant@dnr.mo.gov or visit the Operator Certification page of the department's Web site at: www.dnr.mo.gov/oac/optrain.htm.

